

providing health care for our children must be a top priority. Yesterday the Democratic leaders asked the majority leadership to move the expansion of health care coverage for children to the top of their legislative agenda. There are 10 million reasons why we must do this, for the 10 million children in this country living without health insurance.

If there is one thing the American people are counting on us to do, it is to make the world a better place for their families, and we cannot have healthy families without healthy kids. We need to make health care work for all of America's children. We must take this issue, make it a top priority, in this new session of the Congress.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT APPEARS DOOMED

(Ms. DUNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, by any measure of public opinion the balanced budget amendment is one of the most popular political issues in America today. But sadly, because some politicians believe that it is perfectly acceptable to say one thing at home and do another in Washington, DC, we have a situation where the will of the American people will be thwarted once again. This is the kind of thing the American people have come to loathe about Washington, DC. This is why they threw out the last majority in 1994, because they were tired of seeing politicians say one thing and do another.

Mr. Speaker, it is a very sad day today. The balanced budget amendment has wide bipartisan support in this body and in the Nation as a whole. But as long as the American people keep sending Representatives and Senators to Congress who do still believe in honor, who do still believe in trust and who do still believe in telling the truth, we will eventually have a balanced budget amendment.

"SCHINDLER'S LIST"

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about some of the inappropriate actions of some Members of this House. I cannot begin to fathom why someone watching the Academy Award winning "Schindler's List" on television the other night would choose to focus their attention on the harsh language or the images depicted in the film rather than the horrifying message of that film.

Yes; an apology was given, a little late I might add, for the Holocaust is one of mankind's worst moments in history and the importance of telling

this story to the widest audience possible is what happened the other night. Those of us with compassion and feeling understood that history cannot be repeated. Only by retelling the story can we prevent millions of innocent victims from losing their lives again. The story of man's inhumanity to man should have been the focus, not someone's prurient interest in this great film.

Mr. Speaker, some apologies come too late and are disingenuous in light of what was said. I think we need to understand where these insensitive comments come from, just as we understand where the comments came from yesterday about the Branch Davidians and David Koresh were innocent victims. They were not. They raped young women.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this pattern does not continue. I think this House needs to get on with the right kind of business, the people's business.

THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT AND POTOMAC FEVER

(Mr. WHITE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WHITE. Mr. Speaker, it looks as though the balanced budget amendment once again is going to fall victim to the disease that we see way too much of here in Washington, DC, a disease that you might call Potomac fever. How do you know if you have Potomac fever?

Well, if you have wobbly knees or are weak or of faint heart, you might have Potomac fever. If you have a sudden urge to break a campaign promise, then you definitely have Potomac fever because that is what we see all too much of here today.

This disease is not restricted to a particular party or a particular issue, and the effects are devastating not only on a politician's career, that is OK, but also on the sort of legislation that we can enact in this House.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately with the balanced budget amendment, the lesson is very clear. The American people support this amendment, our country needs this amendment so we can get our budget in order. But because of Potomac fever, it looks like we are not going to get it again this year. That is a shame, Mr. Speaker. I hope we can do it again next year.

KIDS HEALTH CARE

(Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity to help the 10-million-plus children in the United States who do not have health insurance. Together we can help families help themselves by providing parents with a tax credit that will enable them to purchase health insurance for their children. When you really think about

it, the current situation is unconscionable; 10 million uninsured children have to rely on emergency room treatment instead of their family doctor for treatment; 90 percent of these uninsured children have parents who work, but their employers do not provide health coverage for their children.

Mr. Speaker, I think about the parents who lay awake each night wondering what they will do if their kids get sick. Caring for your children is perhaps the most basic human instinct and, as things stand now, millions of hard-working parents are having trouble providing health coverage for their children.

We can help. Soon I will cosponsor a plan that requires insurance companies to provide kids-only health plans with tax credits to help families pay the premiums. I believe this is something Members from both sides of the aisle can agree on. It is not a new program. It is a program to help our children.

SUPPORT H.R. 636 TO PROHIBIT CERTAIN EXECUTIVE BRANCH FUNDRAISING

(Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to alert my colleagues to the importance of H.R. 636. This legislation, which is bipartisan, would prohibit from this moment forward, once adopted, the fundraising at the White House, the Vice President's residence or any of the retreats that are in the executive branch.

We need this to restore confidence with the public when it comes to campaign fundraising and as well this area of executive fundraising. We already have restrictions here in the House and Senate on any fundraising in the Capitol. The same should apply at the White House.

We passed last year the gift ban. We passed last year lobby disclosure reform. Now we need to have campaign finance reform. And H.R. 636 will be a great part of campaign finance reform by making it off limits to sell any part of the White House for fundraising, soft money or any other kind of political fundraising. I appreciate the support of my colleagues and look forward to its passage.

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR CHILDREN

(Mr. BLAGOJEVICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, as a new father I can think of nothing more important than the health of our children. It is immoral that 10 million children in this Nation do not have the comfort and protection of health insurance.

In my State of Illinois, there are almost a half million children without